

I Corinthians 14 Risks and Rewards of Discipleship notes

I Corinthians 3:5-15

In our study this morning we are going to be reminded of the risks and rewards of discipleship.

--One of the great motivating factors of Paul's ministry was that he would stand in front of Jesus one day and be rewarded for all of his labor. **I Corinthians 9:26-27**

--The topic of Rewards was something that we covered together this past Fall.

The Bible teaches us that there are two keys that determine everything about our eternity:

1. First key is belief: What you believe determines your eternal Destination. **Jn. 3:36, I Jn. 5:11, Jn. 3:16**

2. Second key is behavior: This is the key that unlocks the door to rewards. **How** you spend your everlasting life is determined by your behavior.

--**Belief determines your eternal destination.**

--**Behavior determines your eternal compensation.**

1. A timeline of our eternity.

This timeline contains events that will happen in your future no matter what you believe or how you behave.

--Jesus spoke quite often about these events.

1. First event is life: You are born and are here for a purpose, and though you didn't exist in the past you will exist forever in the future.

2. The second event in your forever life is Death:

-- Birth was your quick entrance and death will be you quick exit,

3. The third event in our forever life is Resurrection:

--Something that is true for everyone, Christian or not, is that all will receive a bodily resurrection. **Jn. 5:28-29**

4. The fourth event is Repayment:

Believers and nonbelievers will be judged by Jesus Christ at two separate events:

1. **Great white Throne**—where unbelievers will be judged by their deeds before being thrown into Hell.

2. **Bema or Judgement seat of Christ** – For the believer, sin has already been judged on the cross and there remains no condemnation for them.

--But there is still judgment for believers concerning how they lived their everlasting life—where believers will either be rewarded or suffer loss. **Romans 14:12**

--This judgment is not a criminal or civil court but like sporting event where it would be determined who won the prizes and who didn't based on how they ran the race.

2. Paul gives two analogies in our text about our work in the Lord:

1. Field – **I Cor. 3:9** -- They were like a field that Paul and others had either planted and were tending.

- V. 9** – Paul switches metaphors from agriculture to architecture.
- The Kingdom of God is a **farming project**, but it is also a **building project**.

2. Building – **V. 10** -- They were analogous to a building/temple that was being constructed. **V. 16**

- Paul and the apostles were the master builders preaching and recording the truth in the Scriptures for us.
- One of the gifts God gave the church was the apostles and they are still in operation today because we are studying the things that they recorded for us by the Holy Spirit.
- Paul laid a foundation of faith in Jesus alone for the forgiveness of our sins—He’s a master builder.

“**Another one is building upon it**” – This includes people like me as well our teachers and leaders who explain the Word of God to us.

- This includes the collective work of building the kingdom by evangelism and discipleship and starting churches and sending out missionaries.
- This also includes each one of us individually—each one of us is a part of God’s building and what we do with our part of the building we will be judged for.
- We need to be careful what we do with God’s building project – **V. 10b**

3. If you were building a temple for God, what would you build?

- “It would depend on my resources” – what if I told you that your resources are limitless? **Ephesians 3:20.**
- V. 11** -- If you were building a temple for God...and you are! Be careful how you build it.
- We would never dream of just doing whatever we want with the temple of God, but we will do that with our own lives; **it’s a mistake.**
- V. 12** – There are only two kinds of building materials: good and bad, flammable and fireproof. **VV. 13-15**

Our building will be judged by 3 criterion according to the Corinthian letters:

1. Our Motives – what are your motives for doing what you do?
 - Its possible to do great things but for wrong motives **I Corinthians 4:5**
 - There is a great temptation when it comes to visibility: a precious metal or stone isn’t near as visible as a haystack or a pile of wood.
 - Our tendency is work for what pleases the eyes and shows up good on paper—numbers of people, sums of money, larger buildings, etc.
 - Jesus’ eyes see the real work, the lasting work and His eyes burn right through the stuff that won’t last.
 - If our motive is to be seen, then that’s all the reward we will get no matter good the work is.

2. Our Conduct – **II Corinthians 5:10**

3. Our Spiritual Gifts and abilities – Paul spends a lot of time with the Corinthian church concerning their gifts and the use of them.
- God has given us abilities and opportunity to serve, are we doing that?
 - The parables of the talents and minas speaks to this: are you investing and growing the Master's things or are you burying them in the back yard?

What kind of building are we building based on our gifts use, conduct and motives?

We have to have an eternal perspective:

The story is told of the foreman on a building site who asks one of the builders what he is doing. The builder replies, "I'm **breaking rocks.**"

Another worker is asked the same question, and he answers, "I'm **earning for my family.**"

The question is posed to a third worker. With a glint in his eye, he responds, "I'm **building a cathedral.**"

--**Colossians 3:2**